भी इस संबंध में आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन के माध्यम से अपीलें की हैं।

4. लोगों को खाद्य प्राधिकारी निदेशालय में एक नियंत्रण कक्ष जो 9 बजे पूर्वाह्न से 6 बजे अपराह्न तक कार्य करता है, स्थापित किए जाने की जानकारी भी दी गई है।

5. उपखण्ड अधिकारी/स्थानीय स्वास्थ्य प्राधिकारी की देख रेख में व्यापक छापे मारे गए जिसके परिणामस्वरूप 23 सितम्बर, 1998 तक आम लोगों, पुलिस और अस्पतालों से 869 से अधिक नमूनें उठाए गए हैं। प्राप्त किए गए हैं।

6. राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली द्वारा खाद्य अपमिश्रत निवारण अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत 27 अगस्त 1998 को एक अधिसूचना जारी की गई थी जिसमें जनहित में सभी खुले रूप में सरसों के तेल की बिक्री के प्रस्ताव तथा बिक्री के लिए प्रदर्शित करने पर पूर्ण रूप से प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया था।

7. खाद्य अपमिश्रत निवारण अधिनियम 1998 के अन्तर्गत 29 अगस्त 1998 को एक अधिसूचना जारी की गई थी जिसमें मानव उपयोग के लिए सरसों के तेल की बिक्री, बिक्री के प्रस्ताव तथा बिक्री के लिए सरसों के तेल (खुले अथवा पैक बंद दोनों रूपों में) प्रदर्शित करने पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया था।

8. राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली द्वारा 23 सितम्बर 1998 को खाद्य अपमिश्रत निवारण अधिनियम के अधीन एक अधिसूचना जारी की गई थी जिसमें लोगों के उपयोग के लिए सरसों के तेल का पैक करके बेचने की अनुमति दी गई थी बशर्ते विनिर्माता/आपूर्तिकर्ता ने यह प्रमाणित किया हो कि तेल की गुणवत्ता खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण की अपेक्षाओं के समनुरूप है।

9. 13 अक्तूबर 1998 को राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली ने आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के अधीन एक और अधिसूचना जारी की जिसमें सरसों के तेल को छोड़कर सभी खाद्य तेलों को खुले रूप में बेचने की अनुमति प्रदान की गई।

Dropsy Deaths

@*97 SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many people died of dropsy as a result of the poisoning of mustard oil;

(b) whether it is a fact that it was not a case of adulteration by trade, since adulteration is indulged in, to mix inferior stuff with good stuff, to make more money and in this case Argemone is not only very expensive, it killed people and very much hurt edible trade;

(c) whether Government suspects MNC hand or political hand in this murderous 'operation sabotage'; and

(d) what are Government's findings in this regard?

THIS MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) 67 people died of dropsy caused by the adulteration of mustard oil.

(b) to (d) Argemone Oil is obtained from the seed of the Argemone mexicana plant which is a wild weed that grows abundantly in waste lands in the Rabi season. Whereas the sale price of mustard seeds is about Rs. 15-20 per kg., it is learnt that price of argemone seeds varies from place to place and the commodity is not easily available in the market.

Prosecution/proceedings under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 have been launched by the Government of NCT of Delhi in 84 cases so far. The court has issued non-bailable warrants against the accused persons in all these cases.

Separately the CBI registered a case on 7.9.98 at the instance of Government and have undertaken further investigations. As a result, they have filed a chargesheet under the relevant Sections of the Indian Penal Code on 23.11.98 in the designated Court against certain accused persons. The investigations conducted have established that certain persons entered into a criminal conspiracy with the object of adulterating mustard oil by mixing argemone oil, rice bran etc. During investigation the CBI have further reported that they could not get information regarding role of multinationals or political hand in the matter of adulteration. Further investigation is still continuing.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Prevention of Food Adulteration Department had given a clean chit, a few days earlier, to those mustard oils producers in the capital who had been

@ Question Nos. 81 and 97 were taken together.

found supplying adulterated oil and, if so, the details thereof. What are the names of such officials and what action has been taken against them?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: We have not so far given any clean chit to anybody who had indulged in this adulteration business. In respect of the recent dropsy issue, the Government has promptly taken every possible action. In fact, cases have been booked against 84 persons. Besides, the CBI also has filed a case.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: I do not know what answer he has given. Still my second supplementary is whether it is a fact that the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration has received complaints of adulteration in mustard oil against the Kamal Oil Refinery a few days before the unfortunate incident which claimed several lives in the capital took place, but no action was taken against the Refinery. If so, what is the Government's reaction in this regard?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: The officials of the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration have carried out operations to detect adulteration in mustard oil and to see to it that the sale of loose mustard oil was completely stopped because of the ban imposed on them. Besides that, massive raids were conducted under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, There are 27 SDMs who have been notified as local health authorities under the provisions of the PFA.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Sir, it is a specific question about an oil refinery in Tamil Nadu. In spite of complaints received by the Government, nothing was done. No action was taken by the Government. This is my specific query. What is the Minister's response to this query?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: The complaints that have been received against the people have already been....

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Not against the people but against this particular refinery. The complaint is with you, please check your record and no action was taken before this tragic incident took place. This is a specific query. Please statisfy this august House.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: If there was a complaint prior to the incident, then, certainly....

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Then what did you do about those things?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Usually, when complaints were received investigation was done and action was promptly taken.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: The action resulted in deaths of many people. Was this the action taken by the Government? It is about Kamal Oil Refinery. If you have not heard about it then I am telling you. You please prepare yourself and then come. You don't come to the House without preparation.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: No, no, hon. Member.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: I would like a reply to my query. I would like to know about the Kamal Oil Refinery.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you don't have the information, it is okay. Will you find out the information and then give it?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: If the hon. Member has a copy of the complaint and he has the relevant complaint, then he can very well pass it on to me. I will certainly take action and then I will give him the relevant reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 97. Please put the question first.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: First, I have a point for clarification. In the very first paragraph, in the reply of (b) and (d), it is mentioned that Argemone plant is known as Mexicana plant. I would like to know whether the seed came from Mexico from Mexicana wheat. This is just for clarification. It has been said that the price of Argemone seed varies from place to place. We would like to have the range of prices which it moves in the country. This is for information only. I will come to the true question afterwards.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: I am not sure whether it has come from Mexico or Mexicana. I am now given to understand that it is has come from Mexicana. But with regard to the price, it certainly differs from place to place.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: What is the range?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: It is around Rs. 15-20 per k.g.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: I am afraid the hon. Minister is not right. It is a very expensive item. It is not Rs. 15. It might be Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,500. Please check up and let the House know about Mexicana and the price range. My question is prosecution can be launched under the Food Adulteration Act. Adulteration means when you mix inferior stuff with superior stuff to make a profit. In this case poison was added. Why is prosecution launched under the Food Adulteration Act and not under the Poisoning Act? The end result was the whole trade in mustard oil came to a stand-still. Even business suffered. Lots of people lost their lives and business suffered. So it was a case of poisoning and not simple adulteration by businessmen. Why was prosecution launched under a wrong Act?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: This is a food item. Actually everybody knows it is adulteration. Therefore, action is taken under the Food Adulteration Act. Again it is another matter. Enforcing this particular rule or law rests with the State Government.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: You are sitting in Delhi and this whole thing took place in Delhi. We do have the Delhi Government and the Delhi administration. But the Centre is very much responsible for most of the things that happen in Delhi. I would request the hon. Minister to go into the matter and see what can be done about it. My second question is this. It says, "Investigations conducted by CBI have established that certain persons entered into a criminal conspiracy with the objective of adulterating the mustard oil". Who was involved in this conspiracy? What was their objective? In the next sentence it says, "During investigation, the CBI has further reported that they could not get information". Would the Government try to get more information because immediately after our nuclear tests, a great power announced that they were going to have many more spies in India? And with spies come dirty tricks! Was this a part of that? Please take this matter very seriously and let the House know about it.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, immediately after the dropsy deaths, cases had been registered. This was also handed over to the CBI. The Home Minister asked the CBI to investigate the cases and, accordingly, the CBI has filed cases against people. Now, the investigation is going on. But at this stage the CBI has come to the conclusion to say only this much that there is a criminal conspiracy involved in this. But It don't know how far our learned friend...

श्री सभापति: मलकानी जी, आप उनका जवाब सुनिए। आपकी बात का जवाब दे रहे हैं वे।

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Now, whether there is any external hand in this whole controversy, is not known. We do not know anything about it. The investigation is now in the hands of the CBI. The CBI has said this much that there is a criminal conspiracy behind these dropsy death. When we get more information, we will come out with facts and place them before the House.

श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय: माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि हमारे इस देश में 2992 व्यक्ति सरसों के तेल से प्रभावित हुए, बीमार हुए जिसमें से दिल्ली में 66 और उत्तर प्रदेश में 1 व्यक्ति, कुल 67 व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हो गई। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि बंजर भूमि में पैदा होने वाली यह जंगली घास जैसे आर्जेमोन बीजों को सरसों के तेल में मिक्स करने से ये लोग बीमार हुए तो क्या सरकार यह बताएगी कि ये ट्रेड बिजनेस करने वाले हैं, खुदरा बिक्री करने वाले हैं जिनको छापा मारकर अरेस्ट किया गया, पकड़ा गया या मैन्युफैक्चर करने वाले व्यापारी हैं जो तेल बनाने का काम करते हैं?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: We have provided this information in our reply. The people, who are involved in this adulteration...

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: This is poisoning.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: You say poisoning. But it is adulteration. So, action has been taken and they have been... (*Interruptions*) I can't say it is poisoning. So, we have submitted it in the reply.

श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय: सवाल बिल्कुल सीधा है कि क्या तेल में मिलावट करने वाले खुदरा व्यापारी, ट्रेड बिजनेस करने वाले हैं या वे मैन्युफैक्चरर हैं तेल कंपनी वाले जो इसको बनाते हैं? मेरा सीधा प्रश्न है कि इसमें

किन-किन लोगों को अरेस्ट किया? वे कौन हैं? व्यापारी हैं या बनाने वाले हैं? यह तो सिम्पल सवाल है, सरकार को अगर इसकी जानकारी है...जहां आपकी सरकार थी दिल्ली में भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार, वहां लोग मरे। उत्तर प्रदेश में भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार है, वहां एक आदमी मरा तो यह तो उन स्टेट्स की बात है। अगर आपके पास जानकारी नहीं है तो फिर तो दुर्भाग्य है इस देश का?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: So far, both categories, the wholesalers/retailers as well as the manufacturers have been booked. I have already informed the House that whether it is the BJP Government in Delhi, or, in Uttar Pradesh, it does not matter. There is a clear conspiracy. That is what the conclusion the investigating agency has already come to. Further investigations are going on, but we will come to know as to who the conspirators are, if not today, at least, some time later. But certainly, this much has been established that there is a conspiracy. In Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, the Governments are headed by the BJP. In Madhya Pradesh, in Bihar, everywhere it is happening. When we just think about this conspiracy and the subsequent developments, we have strong reasons to believe that these conspirators will certainly be brought to light some time, if not today.

श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी: महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि सरसों के तेल में मिलावट करने वाले जो व्यापारी हैं और उसकी जांच करने वाले जो अधिकारी हैं, उनके खिलाफ क्या सरकार ने कोई कार्यवाही की है या नहीं क्योंकि मिलावट के कारण सिर्फदिल्ली और उत्तर प्रदेश में ही नहीं, दूसरे प्रदेशों में भी ड्रॉप्सी से लोगों की मृत्यु हुई। ऐसी स्थिति में पूरे देश में एक भयावह स्थिति पैदा हो गयी और कड़वा तेल, सरसों का तेल मिलना बंद हो गया। इस दिशा में मिलावट करने वाले जो व्यापारी थे, उन कितने व्यापारियों के खिलाफकार्यवाही की गयी? हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि इसमें क्रिमिनल कॉन्सपीरेसी थी। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्रिमिनल कॉन्सपीरेसी करने वाले कितने व्यापारी थे जिनके खिलाफ आपने कार्यवाही की? दूसरा, इससे संबंधित जो अधिकारी हैं जिनकी तेल की जांच करने की जवाबदेही थी, उन अधिकारियों के खिलाफ आपने क्या कार्यवाही की? इसके अतिरिक्त यह भी बताएं कि वह कितने व्यापारी और अधिकारी हैं जो इस क्रिमिनल कॉन्सपीरेसी में शामिल थे? मंत्री महोदय कृपया इस संबंध में सदन को जानकारी दें।

†[انصاری جلال الدین: مہودے، میں منتری جی سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ سرسوں کے تیل میں ملاوٹ کرنے والے جو وپاری ہیں اور اسکی جانچ کرنے والے جو ادھیکاری ہیں ان کے خلاف کیا سرکار نے کوئی کاروائی کی ہے یا نہیں کیونکہ ملاوٹ کے کارن صرف دہلی اور اتر پردیش میں ہی نہیں، دوسرے پردیشوں میں بھی ڈراپسی سے لوگوں کی موت ہوئی۔ ایسی استھتی میں پورے دیش میں ایک بھیاوہ استھتی پیدا ہو گئی اور کڑوا تیل، سرسوں کا تیل ملنا بند ہو گیا۔ اس دشا میں ملاوٹ کرنے والے جو وپاری تھے، ان کتنے وپاریوں کے خلاف کاروائی کی گئی؟ ہمارے مانیے منتری جی کہتے ہیں کہ اس میں کرمنل کانسپیریسی تھی۔ میں جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کرمنل کانسپیریسی کرنے والے کتنے وپاری تھے جنکے خلاف کاروائی کی؟ دوسرا، اس سے سمبندھت جو ادھیکاری ہیں جنکی تیل کی جانچ کرنے کی جو ذمہ داری تھی، ان ادھیکاریوں کے خلاف آپنے کیا کاروائی کی؟ اسکے اتریکت یہ بھی بتائیں کہ وہ کتنے وپاری اور ادھیکاری ہیں جو اس کرمنل کانسپیریسی میں شامل تھے؟ منتری مہودے کرپیا اس سمبندھ میں سدن کو جانکاری دیں۔]

† [ ] Transliteration in Arabic script.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: As far as taking action against the officials is concerned, the Delhi Government reported that no negligence by any official of the State Government has been established during the edible oil crisis. Therefore, the question of taking any action against the officials is ruled out. With regard to the cases filed against the adulterators, we have stated that 84 persons have been booked under the Act. The CBI has already taken up the cases and the investigation is in progress. I have already informed the House that the CBI has come to the conclusion, not conclusion, at least by this time they could say that there is a clear criminal conspiracy. As desired by the hon. Member, as and when the complete information is provided to us, we will place it before the House.

श्री गांधी आज़ाद: महोदय, यह जो तेल की मिलावट का पता लगा है, उस संबंध में मंत्री महोदय से मैं एक सीधा-सादा प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूं कि मिलावट में कितना तेल पकड़ा गया जिसको पकड़ने के बाद डिस्ट्रॉय कर दिया गया?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: We had lifted several samples for testing. We have given their numbers also . But, ... (*Interruptions*) ...

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the quantity destroyed? ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री गांधी आज़ाद: महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न है कि कितना मिलावटी तेल पकड़ा गया जिसे पकड़ने के बाद डिस्ट्रॉय कर दिया गया क्योंकि वह मिलावटी तेल खाने के योग्य नहीं रह गया था इसलिए उसे डिस्ट्रॉय कर दिया गया। वह तेल कितनी मात्रा में था, यही मेरा सवाल है?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: We will collect the information and place it before the House.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Hon. Chairman, Sir, our hon. Minister has given information in his statement and in his oral replies that cases had been registered under the Adulteration Act. With regard to Q.No. 97, he has replied that criminal conspiracy has been noted and it has been handed over to the CBI for investigation and that proper action is being taken. If it were a criminal conspiracy, why should the poor traders, the small vendors, who got oil from big oil merchants or wholesale merchants, be harassed under the Adulteration Act? If it were a criminal case, it has to be in a different form. I would like to know whether the Government, or, it is small vendors doing adulteration. First, you have to decide on that matter. Has the Government anything to do in this regard?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Twice he has replied to this question. Now, Q.No. 82.

SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Sir,...(*Interruption*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it is already twenty minutes. Now, Dr. Dutta.

Child prostitution in the country

*82. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 25 per cent of prostitutes in India are minors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting of the Central Advisory Committee on Child Prostitution was held in the capital recently;

(d) if so, the suggestions made by the participants in the said meeting;

(e) the reaction of Government thereto;

(f) whether Government propose to rename the existing Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956; and

(g) the details of steps taken/proposed to curb the evil of child prostitution?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government has not conducted any survey on prostitution covering the entire country. However, in 1991, at the instance of the Deptt., Central Social Welfare Board initiated a survey on Prostitution in six metropolitan cities namely, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Bangalore & Hyderabad. According to the survey, in Calcutta and Delhi the age at the time of entry into prostitution in these cities is as under:—

Below 15 years	14.9%
16 — 18 years	24.5%

(c) to (e) A meeting of the Central Advisory Committee on Child Prostitution was convened on 16.10.98 to consider amendments in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 to make it more effective an stringent. The Committee has recommended certain substantial amendments on imposition of higher penalties and fine on offences under the Act. These recommendations are in the process